

Minutes for the Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee Meeting of November 3, 2008

Board members present were Jack Johnson, Stephan Miller, Ron Sender, Christopher Tonkin, Jeff Roth, and Scott Smith. Pete Howard, Jim Gascoigne, Ben Klass, David Watson, Chad Gibson, Joey Glushko, and Lauren Hefferon were also present.

The meeting was called to order at 7:31pm.

*The minutes from the October meeting were approved after three corrections were made — including adding a sentence reinforcing our support for improving the Spy Pond Path.

Feedback on recent events including the State's Moving Together Conference. Joey told us that the conference was well attended. She felt that the agenda could have had more structure because there was a lot of wasted motion. She gave us a summary of the discussion of the Safe Routes to School issue.

Update on Mass. Ave. Corridor (MAC) project in Arlington, including highlights from the public meetings this past month. Scott gave us a summary of some meetings facilitating the planning of MAC that were held since our last meeting. He told us that there were a lot of ideas but not much consensus. Two meetings were held and the mood at both meetings was positive. The consultants will now consider the input and come up with some concrete recommendations. We briefly discussed the idea of rear-end in first diagonal parking. There was some skepticism about the ability of the average driver to make this maneuver successfully!

Jim asked where most of the customers visiting East Arlington merchants are coming from. Scott told us that those studies are in progress. Scott also informed us that the data from the traffic study will probably be released before the design is finished, but it is not clear whether bike data will be included.

Discussion on shared road lanes in Arlington. Jeff told us that he communicated with DPW about re-striping Mass. Ave. along the western corridor. They have been busy this fall and have not gotten around to answering. Jeff would like to see bike lanes in that area. We also discussed sending DPW a thank-you letter for bike accommodations added to Lake Street during the repaving. We will also send a copy of this letter to The Advocate.

*We voted unanimously to compose and send a letter to the DPW, which Jeff will handle.

Updates from DCR on: a. Lane markings on Mystic Valley Parkway. b. Alewife Brook Path project. Note the upcoming Arlington Conservation Commission hearing on the Alewife Brook Path on Thursday, November 6. There is renewed activity on planning the Alewife Path. The Conservation commission will hold a hearing on this topic later this week. Joey told us the current plans for the renovation of the Alewife Brook area are available at the Library. There is the possibility of Paths on both sides of the brook. Joey brought up the question of how the path will be maintained after it is built.

Discussion of bike-rack styles and priority locations, eligible for MAPC grant program. Joey showed us some different styles of bike racks. We currently favor the inverted-U racks over the post-and-ring style. Joey would like to have the Us made with a cross bar. The cost for each rack is from \$100-\$150. We have about \$5,000 available to us (to be reimbursed by MAPC). The DPW thinks they can handle the installation of about 20 rack sites. We decided that we preferred the inverted Us because they can accommodate three bikes instead of the two accommodated by the post and ring. We discussed the possibility of the misuse of the inverted U (bikes incorrectly parked). Joey answered that we must have guidelines for their correct use — preferably on the rack itself.

Update and discussion on bicycling issues related to Safe Routes to School in Arlington; status report from Bicycling to School subcommittee. Lauren told us that it is very important to have the police involved in this issue. She also met with the new Thompson School principal who has no fundamental opposition to biking to school. Lauren and others also met with the Community Relations Subcommittee of the School Committee. They proposed a two-school pilot program.

School Committee member Jeff Thielman then sent an email to Lauren saying that he could not support bike parking on school property. Lauren thinks that it is critical to get more parents involved. Ron suggested that putting bike parking near the edge of the campus might be a compromise. David disagreed; he felt that that sends the wrong message. Joey volunteered to check with the Town counsel about issues of liability. Perhaps a clear ruling on liability could ease the concerns of at least some of the principals. Jim suggested finding a principal advocate from some other town.

Proposal for ABAC tent canopy for events like Town Day. Jeff proposes that we purchase a canopy for our outside events. Jack was concerned about cost, storage and ease of use. Lauren suggested that we initiate some fundraising to facilitate this purchase.

*The meeting was adjourned at 9:27.

*Denotes a vote was taken.

Minutes submitted by Stephan Miller